

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 6633

PASS EUR LABOR ADVISOR DANIEL GOOTT

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: ELAB, SP
SUBJECT: VISIT OF AMERICAN TRADE UNIONIST

REF: MADRID 6104

1. THE VISIT TO SPAIN OF THE ILGQU'S HENoch MENDELSUND (DIRECTOR, INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS DEPARTMENT) WAS MOST USEFUL AND MUCH APPRECIATED BY THE SPANISH TRADE UNIONISTS WITH WHOM HE CAME IN CONTACT. HE VISITED THE BARCELONA AREA (AUGUST 23 AND 24) AND FOLLOWING THE MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL TEXTILE FEDERATION IN BRUSSELS, RETURNED FOR STOPS IN THE BASQUE REGION (AUGUST 28 SEPTEMBER 1) AND MADRID (SEPTEMBER 2-5).

2. IN BARCELONA, MENDELSUND'S PROGRAM WAS LARGELY HANDLED BY DAMIAN JOYA, PRESIDENT OF UGT TEXTILE FEDERATION. HOWEVER, HE ALSO HAD OCCASION TO MEET WITH AMADEO CUITO AND JOSEPT BUIRIA (OF THE PSC SOCIALIST PARTY OF CATALONIA) WHO HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN TRYING TO ORGANIZE THE SALVADOR SEGUI LABOR EDUCATION INSTITUTE (WITH FUNDS PROVIDED BY THE AFL-CIO AND ILGWU). INITIALLY, THE IDEA HAD BEEN TO MAKE THE INSTITUTE A JOINT FREE TRADE UNION EFFORT, WITH
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REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SOCIALIST UGT, ANARCHO-SYNDICAL CNT. AND CATALAN SOC ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS. UNFORTUNATELY, POLITICAL ACTIVITIES IN CONNECTION WITH THE JUNE 15 GENERAL ELECTIONS PUSHED PLANNING FOR THE INSTITUTE INTO THE BACKGROUND, AND LITTLE IF ANY PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE. AS A MATTER OF FACT, PROBABLY DUE TO INTERNAL POLITICAL FRICTIONS AMONG THE VARIOUS SOCIALIST POLITICAL ELEMENTS IN BARCELONA, THE UGT

CLAIMS IT WAS NEVER EVEN APPROACHED ABOUT THE INSTITUTE. AS THINGS STAND NOW. THE UGT (THROUGH THE SPD'S FRIEDRICH EBERT STIFTUNG- SEE MADRID 5838) IS THIS MONTH LAUNCHING ITS OWN LARGO CABALLERO LABOR EDUCATION INSTITUTE IN MADRID WHICH WILL HAVE SIX PROVINCIAL BRANCHES INCLUDING ONE IN BARCELONA. MENDELSUND TELLS US HE WILL BE DISCUSSING THIS MATTER WITH IRVING BROWN, IN AN EFFORT TO GET THINGS BACK ON THE TRACK.

2. THE ILGWU LEADER WAS VERY MUCH IMPRESSED BY THE DRIVE AND ORGANIZATIONAL EFFORTS OF THE BASQUE STV. HE MET IN SAN SEBASTIAN WITH TOP STV LEADERS INCLUDING JOSE LEUNDA (VICE PRESIDENT- RECENTLY FROM IV TRIP IN U.S.). ALFONSO ECHEVERRIA (SECRETARY GENERAL) AND ALEX AGIRREZABAL (INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY). HE ALSO CROSSED THE FRENCH BORDER TO VISIT 84 YEAR OLD STV PRESIDENT MANUEL ROBLES IN BAYONNE.

3. IN MADRID, LABATT ARRANGED SCHEDULE WHICH INCLUDED A) VISIT TO SPAIN'S IF NOT EUROPE'S LARGEST CLOTHING MANUFACTURING PLANT INDUYCO (INDUSTRIAS Y CONFECCIONES, S.A) EMPLOYING SOME 10,000 WORKERS, B) VISIT TO UGT HEADQUARTERS TO MEET WITH NICOLAS REDONDO AND OTHER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMEBRS, C) UGT LUNCH WTH TEDONDO, GARNACHO (INDUSTRIAL FEDERATIONS SECRETARY), ALMUNIA (UGT ECONOMIC EXPERT), AND MANCHO (TREASURER) SEE ALSO MADRID 6550, AND D) MEETING WITH MADRID REPRESENTATIVES OF CONFIDENTIAL

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UGT TEXTILE FEDERATION.

4. IN COMMENTS TO LABATT, MENDELSUND INDICATED HE WAS MOST FAVORABLY IMPRESSED BY REDONDON AND UGT'S TOP LEADERSHIP. SINCE HIS FIRST VISIT HERE(BARCELONA) A YEAR AND A HALF AGO, HE FOUND THAT UGT LEADERS AHD MATURED CONSIDERABLY AND WERE NOW TALKING MORE LIKE TRADE UNIONISTS THAN "HALF BAKED MARXISTS". MEDNELSUND SAID HE PLANNED TO DISCUSS HIS VISIT WITH BOTH MIKE BOGGS (AFL-CIO) AND DAN GOOT (EUR LABOR ADVISER) IN WASHINGTON.EATON

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Sent Date: 07-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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